

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-119 and 125-232 are pending. In the Restriction Requirement, dated January 13, 2005, the claims were restricted according to the following groups:

- I. Figure 1
- II. Figure 2
- III. Figure 3

In accordance with MPEP 818.03, Applicants herein traverse the Restriction Requirement for lacking a proper prima facie basis for such restriction, but nonetheless provisionally elect Claims 125-232 for prosecution at this time, pending resolution of such traversal and in fulfillment of the requirement for provisional election.

As mentioned, this election is made with traverse, as follows:

Applicants respectfully submit that characterization in the Official Action of independent claims 1, 106 and 125 as allegedly directed to the different species of Figures 1, 2 and 3, respectively, is not an accurate basis upon which to allege restriction. The Official Action states that “this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3.”

In this regard, by definition, Figures of a patent application are representative of different parts of an overall inventive system or process. However, having different Figures in a patent application is not believed by Applicants to make out a prima facie case of restriction as to Applicants’ claims. Absurdly, if such was the case, every patent application with different Figures would be subject to restriction. Simply put, claims, not Figures, define an invention, and thus Applicants respectfully request clarification as to how the claims present patentably distinct inventions, not how the Figures present different part(s) of an overall system.

Instead, recited as either apparatus or methods for practicing the invention, claims 1, 106 and 125 are clearly tied to the common inventive concept of “connecting source port(s) of output component(s) to sink port(s) of input component(s) via at least one primitive circuit path.” See, e.g., MPEP 806.05(e) for further discussion regarding the commonality of apparatus and process claims.

For the Examiner's convenience in consideration, independent claims 1, 106 and 125 are copied below, with the commonality of inventive concept emphasized in bold as follows:

1. (Previously presented) An audio/visual system, comprising:  
at least one output component having at least one source port for each type of output signal output from the at least one output component and at least one source port object for each of said at least one source port; and  
at least one input component having at least one sink port for each type of input signal input to the at least one input component and at least one sink port object for each at least one sink port,  
**wherein each at least one source port of said at least one output component is connectable to said at least one sink port of said at least one input component via at least one primitive circuit path.**

106. (Previously presented) A method for establishing a path between a source component and an input component in an audio/visual system comprising at least one source component having at least one source port capable of supporting each type of output signal output from the at least one source component and at least one primitive source port object for each of said at least one source port; and at least one input component having at least one sink port capable of supporting each type of input signal input to the at least one input component and a primitive sink port object for each sink port, wherein each at least one source port of said at least one source component is connectable to said at least one sink port of said at least one input component via at least one primitive circuit path, including:

**instantiating a virtual circuit object that establishes a path between the source port corresponding to the complete source port object and the sink port corresponding to the complete sink port object.**

125. (Previously presented) A method for use in connection with an audio/visual system, comprising:

**connecting at least one source port of at least one output component to at least one sink port of at least one input component via at least one primitive circuit path;**

wherein each of said at least one output component includes at least one source port for each type of output signal output from the at least one output component and at least one source port object for each of said at least one source port, and

wherein each of said at least one input component includes at least one sink port for each type of input signal input to the at least one input component and at least one sink port object for each at least one sink port.

In short, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified claims are process and apparatus claims for a common inventive concept, not species claims having any one-to-one correspondence to Figures 1, 2 and 3. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.


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**PATENT**

As such, since the law concerning "genus-species" is believed inapplicable to independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that no showing need be made concerning obviousness of species, or lack thereof, because it is not understood how the above-recited process v. apparatus claims could be considered species.

Withdrawal and/or clarification of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

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